

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP**

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	DD/S	JH	20 Aug
2	Director of Communications		
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Assist. to the Director	FMC	17 Aug
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks:  of Commo called to advise me he had received a carbon copy of the attached. He stated that he would telephone Mr. Alexander per request in Para. 2 of Alexander's letter and state that we have no objection.

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**SECRET****CONFIDENTIAL****UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Executive Registry  
7-3273  
DDS 55-1827  
M17069

August 15, 1955

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

DULLS P.A./ALEXANDER

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Pursuant to my letter dated August 10, 1955 on the subject of the Pacific cable, you will find attached a copy of the reply of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to our letter dated August 5, 1955, together with copies of its correspondence with the Federal Communications Commission requesting authority to proceed with the cable.

It is now considered necessary to present the views of the Government agencies with regard to the defense aspects of the projected cable. To accomplish this, it is proposed to send the attached draft letter to the FCC as such an expression. It will be appreciated if your comments or approval of the letter may be made by telephone.

The Federal Communications Commission has indicated that it prefers not to comment in this matter because it is now before the Commission officially as presented by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Sincerely yours,



F. C. Alexander  
Deputy Assistant Director  
for Telecommunications

Attachments (7)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 13, 1955

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Mr. Cleo F. Craig  
President  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company  
195 Broadway  
New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Craig:

As a part of our communications mobilization planning, we have completed an analysis of some of the steps that might be taken to minimize the vulnerability of our strategic overseas radio circuits in the event of intentional interference.

As a matter of immediate urgency, it appears that a deep-sea cable is required between the west coast of the United States and Honolulu. Such a cable should be capable of providing telephone, telegraph and facsimile type service.

We appreciate the magnitude of such an undertaking and wish to explore the possibility of our company providing such a facility not only to care for public service but also to meet defense requirements of the Government. It is considered that such a cable should be made available not later than 1957-58.

I will appreciate an expression of your views in this matter and will be glad to discuss it with you if your organization is interested.

I have written a similar letter to the other United States international carriers. Because of the nature of this matter, I am asking that you treat it in a confidential manner.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur S. Flemming  
Director.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 5, 1955

Mr. Cleo Craig  
President  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company  
195 Broadway  
New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Craig:

This will acknowledge with thanks the recent visit of your Messrs. Dumas and Killingsworth and our subsequent discussion regarding the possibility of laying a Pacific deep-sea cable.

As we understand the position of your company in this matter, you had contemplated, as a long-term project, the installation of a cable between the United States and Hawaii about 1960. However, in view of the expression from the Office of Defense Mobilization that such a cable is necessary to national defense at a substantially earlier date, we understand that you are prepared to give serious consideration to advancing your plans in order to make a cable available in 1957.

You have our assurance that serious consideration has been given to this matter and it is the opinion of this office that the installation of a deep-sea cable between the United States and Hawaii by 1957 is vital to the support of our national defense.

It is our further understanding of your position that such a cable, the capacity to be at least equal to that of your new Atlantic cable, would be laid by your company alone and that you are not desirous of entering into a joint venture with other interests.

As outlined in our conversation with Messrs. Dumas and Killingsworth we will proceed with a review of Government cable circuit requirements between the United States and Hawaii.

We shall appreciate being kept advised of any actions that you may take in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur S. Flemming  
Director

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Henry T. Killingsworth  
Vice President

August 9, 1955

Dr. A. S. Flemming, Director,  
Office of Defense Mobilization,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Flemming:

This is to acknowledge your letter of August 5, addressed to Mr. Craig confirming your statement in the discussion with Mr. Dumas and me on July 29 that you believe it essential to have available a submarine cable capable of providing telephone, telegraph and facsimile type service between Hawaii and the Mainland.

As we told you at that time, in view of the urgent national need, we are willing to advance our plans to provide such a cable. We have discussed with Mr. J. B. Atherton, President of the Hawaiian Telephone Company, the possibility of his company participating in the ownership of the cable. We expect shortly to have his decision. He has assured us that, whether or not his company participates in the ownership, he is agreeable to making arrangements to connect the cable with his company's facilities in the Hawaiian Islands.

As you have been advised, in order to provide the cable within the time contemplated, it will be necessary to use the skilled technical force which has been assembled and trained to fabricate the repeaters for the Transatlantic and Alaskan cables. It is, therefore, imperative that the manufacture of the repeaters be commenced promptly, before this group of technicians has been disbanded. We would therefore appreciate it if you will advise us just as soon as you can of the estimated Government requirements in the cable.

In view of these circumstances, we are initiating action at once by filing with the Federal Communications Commission applications (a) for the necessary Presidential landing license, and (b) for authority to construct and operate the cable. Copies of these applications are attached for your information.

Knowing your great interest in this project, we will, of course, keep your office informed from time to time as to our progress.

Sincerely,

/s/ Henry T. Killingsworth

Attachments